

REMARKS

Applicant's kindly thank the examiner for his time to discuss the instant case by telephone. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's objections under § 103(a)/102(e) is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

35 USC §103(a)/102(e)

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, and 18-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)/102(e) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al., US 6,939,842.

In response, applicants respectfully assert that the subject § 103(a) references were at the time the invention was made subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person, i.e., Unilever PLC, Unilever NV and Conopco, Inc., d/b/a Unilever. Therefore, Hunter et al. is disqualified as prior art under 35 USC § 103(c).

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, applicants submit that all claims now pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully submitted. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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